Legislation Defining the Term "Minor."

1. MR. K. C. RAJA RAJA VARMA: (*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the decision reported in XII, Travancore Law Journal, page 1, and the definition of "minor" in the Limitation and other Regulations, regarding the law of the age of majority in the State?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to introduce legislation, making the law regarding the age of majority uniform in all cases and for all purposes?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR: (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

Expansion of Facilities for Collegiate Education.

2. MR. K. C. RAJA RAJA VARMA: (*a*) Are the Government aware of a large number of English School Leaving Certificate holders being refused admission in the colleges of the State on the ground of want of accommodation?

(*b*) Do the Government propose to establish any second grade colleges in the next academic year to relieve the difficulties of students?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) Government are aware that some English School Leaving Certificate holders have been refused admission in His Highness the Maha Raja's College on the ground of want of accommodation. Government have no information as regards private colleges.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative. Government, however, propose to examine, with the help of a committee, whether a larger number of students could be admitted into His Highness the Maha Raja's College.

Interest on Loans Granted Under the Land Improvement and Agricultural Loans Regulation.

3. MR. K. C. RAJA RAJA VARMA: (*a*) Was the attention of the Government drawn to the Statement of Objects and Reasons for passing the Agricultural Loans Regulation when the rules framed thereunder were recently revised by them?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state:

(i) the former rate of interest on such loans;

(ii) the present rate of interest; and

(iii) the special reasons, if any, for enhancing the rate?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to reduce the rate of interest to its former level, if no special reasons exist for enhancing the rate of interest?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

(*b*) (i) 4 per cent.

(ii) 6¼ per cent.

(iii) The member is referred to the *Press Communiqué* published on page 638 of the Government Gazette dated the 12th July, 1921.

(*c*) The answer is in the negative.

Teaching of Christian Scriptures in Recognised Educational Institutions.

4. MR. K. C. RAJA RAJA VARMA: (*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the teaching of Christian scriptures to non-Christian minor students in schools managed by Christian Missions and Churches ?

(*b*) Have complaints from the parents or guardians of such students been received by the Government or the educational authorities regarding the teaching of the Christian religion against their will?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to issue orders that non-Christian students should not be taught the Christian religion or admitted in such religious classes without the written consent of their guardians or parents?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) Government are aware that, in some schools managed by Christian Missions or Churches, some non-Christian pupils attend Bible classes.

(*b*) & (*c*) No specific complaints of the kind referred to by the member have been recently received and there is no need for any general order in the matter.

Increase of Drunkenness.

5. MR. K. C. RAJA RAJA VARMA: (*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the increase in the consumption of liquor and other intoxicants in the State during the past twelve years ?

(*b*) Have the Government taken any steps to check the growing evil of drunkenness in the country?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) Accurate figures of consumption are available from the year 1088 only and they are furnished in the statement* appended. These figures will show that there has been no appreciable increase, and that, on the contrary, the consumption in 1097 was less under all intoxicants than in 1088 in spite of the large increase of population revealed by the recent Census.

(*b*) The policy of the Government has always been to check the evil of drunkenness, by making drinking increasingly difficult, expensive and unattractive. In view to this object, they have reduced the number of shops, increased tree-tax and the duty and price of arrack and toddy, and reduced the issue strength of arrack.

* *Vide* Appendix I page 11.

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